

The Bulletin of the National Christian Council

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Monday, March 15, 1937

THE RELEVANCE OF HANGCHOW

In October 1938 the International Missionary Council will hold its meeting in Hangchow. It is essential to consider what this event will mean for us, and its relevance to the work of the churches, schools and hospitals in China.

(1) In the first place China's invitation has been accepted and therefore China is host. We in this country are not responsible for the program, but we are responsible for the entertaining of some 400 delegates who will assemble from every quarter of the world. They will live together for a fortnight at Hangchow. The actual sessions of the Conference are not likely to be open to the general public. But for weeks before and afterwards our visitors will be amongst us. Some will be Board secretaries of the missionary societies who will travel to various districts of China on official business. Others will be outstanding Christian leaders in thought and action, not only from Europe and America but from Africa and the Near East, from India, Java, the Philippines and Japan. Some of these men and women we hope will give adequate time to visit the great centres of life and thought, that they may both share with us their vision and take away with them a deeper understanding of China and friendship for her people. The China delegation to the Conference is limited to sixty. But tens of thousands of us will be able to have some share in the inspiration which the visit of these other 340 picked representatives from foreign countries may bring.

(2) This leads to the second point. The assembling of these delegates from almost every nation in the world will provide a living illustration of the phrase, "under heaven one family." It will be a demonstration of the character of the Christian fellowship, the Church, as supra-national. Those present from some fifty nations will be members of one body which has been indeed broken but which is held together by a stronger and deeper unity in Christ than most of us realise. The effect of this demonstration will be in proportion to the quality of life and thought exhibited by the delegates; by word and deed, severally and together. In some international gatherings one can conceive of unfortunate incidents which might mar the picture where men are drawn from nations divided by acute national grievances. On the other hand we have faith to believe that God intends to use this Conference and the presence of these visitors to

bring some new vision alike to our non-Christian friends in government and community life and to all members of the Christian churches and institutions, a new vision of the majesty of God working His purposes out in history through the fellowship of the Church, creating love and peace where there is no peace and redeeming the common life of men. Here is a solemn challenge to our capacity for prayer.

(3) In the third place we may look for valuable help at certain points where we most are in need of help in our own work. We must not pin our faith to resolutions that may be passed—let us finally banish that conception of this conference from our minds. Help will come to us as we are challenged to fresh thought and action by fellowship with others preparing for the conference. We shall learn by doing and thinking combined. Help will also come to us as, with minds thus receptive, we are able to share the experience of others that will then be made available for us. Already papers are beginning to reach China that indicate how rich may be this fellowship of people in various parts of the world working together on common tasks.

Where do we need help in China? It might be very stimulating if each of us would look at his own station or institution and ask that question. Without trying to anticipate the answer in detail, we should probably agree that a fundamental and perennial need is in the field of *evangelism*—the need of stirring up more of the spirit of evangelism, the desire to witness to what God is and has done for us, the need for fresh ways and means of making our evangelistic work more effective with young and old, whether in the life of the Church, the school, the home or the community.

This implies a second fundamental need, for a deeper hold on God into whose Kingdom we want others to enter, a real and growing experience for ourselves to share with others. Much of our faith is thin and shallow and tame. We do not know what to say, or we fail to say it in a compelling and attractive way, when people tell us that science and humanism are enough, when we are asked whether Christianity can heal the desperate wounds of society, or stop war and make peace in the Far East. Even so our preaching so easily outruns our practice. The world is looking for redemption rather than good advice. Redemption will not come by talk unless it is backed up by the power of revolutionary Christian living. Then the message may become the very word of God to man.

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A third fundamental need is to build up *the life of the Church*, its ministry and its laity, to call out more devoted and more intelligent service; to bring to thoughtful men, especially the younger folk, a far clearer and more attractive conception of the Church itself, its nature and function, even its desirability about which many seem in doubt; and to acclimatise the Church so that it will grow strong and healthy in Chinese soil, not less catholic but more cared for and welcomed into domestic life, universal and yet unmistakably Chinese.

It has been said that God helps those who help themselves. We can apply that to this conference. If we carry on with our usual tasks in the usual way and hope that somehow a world conference at Hangchow is going to be a kind of "deus ex machina" come from heaven above to "heaven below" to solve our problems for us, we are doomed to inevitable disappointment. But if we use this occasion for trying to grapple with our usual tasks in a fresh way, taking advantage of all that cooperation with others may give us, regarding the conference not as an end in itself but as an instrument, then God will not fail to honour our adventures of faith. There is power in fresh beginnings, there is great power in fellowship, if these be under God's direction.

One word more. In view of forthcoming synods and assemblies of the Churches, in preparation for conferences of Christian organisations and groups, will those who read these words plan ways and means of raising these issues in those gatherings, considering how to use the opportunity thus presented and setting aside time for prayer, the prayer of quiet listening and intercession. When we remember all that came out of Edinburgh 1910 and Jerusalem 1928 we say, The Lord hath done great things for us. Will Hangchow 1938 be the occasion for still greater gifts from His hand?

PREPARATION FOR HANGCHOW

At the Executive Committee meeting of the NCC in November 1936 a General Preparation Committee for the 1938 IMC meeting of the IMC was appointed, with two sub-committees, on Study and Business preparation. These Committees have begun to function. Rev. Earle H. Ballou has just joined the staff of the NCC to give full time to this work of preparation.

The number of places at the Conference allotted to China is 60 (out of 400 delegates), 50 of whom are to be Chinese and 10 missionaries. The same number of places is given also to India. Thorough measures will be taken to ensure that our delegation from China will be representative and well balanced, and efforts made to meet many points of view that will have to be considered. For instance, any well balanced delegation should include representatives not only of the few major church denominations but of the smaller churches, of Christian educational and medical institutions and other organisations. Some Christian bodies that are not members of the NCC will be invited to share in the activities and fellowship of the

Conference. There should be a fair proportion of women, and of younger people under 35, including student leaders. Different areas and regions must all be represented. The individuals who are finally selected should have ability both to make a helpful contribution and to share with others the vision and inspiration received. To this end, a knowledge of the English language will be almost essential. For it will be remembered that this IMC meeting is not primarily a conference about China, but a conference in China, the first world conference of the Christian churches ever to be held in the Far East, to consider great issues that are of common concern to us all. And lastly those who represent us in China will do so most effectively if they are persons who not only have special knowledge and ability, but have been actively identified with the task of preparation, in work and thought and prayer.

Accordingly all bodies and organizations concerned will be asked to share in the suggesting of suitable persons, leaving the final selection of a well balanced delegation in the hands of the NCC which exists for this kind of cooperative responsibility. We cannot all be included in the group of sixty but we can all share in the process of common work and thought, as well as in local and regional gatherings, which will precede and follow the conference itself.

In regard to these processes of common work and thought, it is proposed to follow the central theme and five topics as suggested by the IMC and make preparation along those general lines. The following outline is given for the convenience of our readers. More detail of what is being done under several headings is reported in later pages of this Bulletin.

Central Theme: The Church.

The special emphasis will be the church's life and witness in face of the world situation and the development of the younger Christian communities as living members of the Universal Christian fellowship. This central theme comprises five main subjects:

I. *The Faith by which the Church lives*

It is not proposed to draw up a statement of the Christian message, as this would be repeating what was done at the Jerusalem meeting in 1928.

The work of the Oxford Conference (July 1937) of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work will be fully used. The subject is Church, Community and State (see below in this Bulletin). Some preliminary papers have been circulated and are being studied by scholars in China. A few delegates from China will be at the Conference.

II. *The Witness of the Church*

Dr. H. Kraemer of Java has been asked to write a book on Evangelism in the modern world, relating it to different conflicting views of the attitude to be taken by Christians towards other faiths. Dr. Kraemer is a distinguished Dutch missionary who has had a long experience in the East and close contact with European and American thought.

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A study of evangelistic work is being undertaken in many countries. An interesting paper on this subject from America has just reached us, drafted by Dr. Soper, President of Ohio Wesleyan University, which owes its origin to preparation for the 1938 meeting.

In India a study of Mass Movements by Bishop Pickett has just been completed and further studies are being undertaken as the five years forward evangelistic movement proceeds. The purpose is to understand as fully as possible "the lessons both of success and of failure that the past teaches in regard to evangelism, the needs that the present situation presents, the ways, it may be new and experimental, in which effort has been made to meet them, the points at which difficulty presses most sorely, the elements of uncertainty and perplexity that confront us." As evangelistic work goes on there will be set up, to use a phrase of Mr. Paton's, a process of reflection upon it.

In China what are the lessons of our own Five Year Movement, of the student campaigns of the Youth and Religion Movement, of the Oxford Group movement, of recent revival movements and other forms of evangelistic work? Can we apply these lessons to the fresh efforts to be made in a number of cities next autumn in connection with the visit of Dr. Stanley Jones and a team that will travel with him? Committees appointed to prepare for that visit should take time to think deeply into the purpose and method of what they undertake.

By cooperative work both in China and abroad we shall hope to get more literature on evangelism, to stir up the spirit of witness and to open up new vision of what can be done through education, medicine, literature and the service of the community to change young and old into loyal disciples of Christ.

III. *The Life of the Church*

Preparation under this head will include many factors that contribute to the upbuilding of the internal religious life of the church itself.

The China Association of Theological Seminaries is now organized and in a position to push forward many of the suggestions contained in the Weigle Report, for the better training of men and women for ministerial service. The Association plans to hold its first full meeting this summer (August 25-27).

The NCCRE, at the request of the Kuling Conference with Dr. Weigle in 1935, has launched a national lay training movement which is meeting with a hearty response in many quarters.

At the same time the work of religious education for children, young people and adults, in church and school and home, is being coordinated by the NCCRE and suitable teaching material provided. Those who are preparing material are asked to present in a compelling way the meaning and function of the church and its relation to the social life of men. Special emphasis is placed on enlisting young people between 15 and 25, and on the work of evangelism as the main business of the church.

The Home Committee of the NCC is setting up a new study of the Home in China, the most urgent problems that need to be faced and what the home has to contribute to the life of the church.

The relation of Christian education to the life of the church is receiving attention through the work of the China Christian Educational Association which in conjunction with the NCCRE is giving much thought to the religious life in college and middle school. Both have an indispensable contribution to make to the future life of the church.

The relation of medical work to the life of the church is being studied by the Council on Medical Missions of the China Medical Association.

Other questions listed by the IMC under this heading which have so far, however, received little attention in China are: The relation of the church to Christian movements outside the organized church (such as the New Life Movement), the relation of the church to the cultural heritage of China, and the work of the missionary and his training for service under present conditions.

IV. *The Church and its Environment*

The relation of the church to the state is raised by the desire of government officials to secure co-operation in various forms of welfare work, especially rural reconstruction, health work and education. Some questions of principle touching religious liberty are raised by recent demands for registration of churches and institutions, and by the demand for taxes on property. The NCC has appointed a committee on property which is now at work.

The economic basis of the church and its relation to the changing economic and social order are questions that have been committed by the IMC to Mr. Merle Davis. Mr. Davis spent some weeks in China last autumn before visiting India and will return in the middle of April to make his headquarters in Shanghai and promote the study of these questions in China.

In this connection a rural church Survey is being undertaken by Nanking Theological Seminary.

V. *Closer Cooperation*

The policy of the NCC is to develop not only the cooperation of national organizations but also more effective regional and local cooperation. There are some provincial Christian Councils, as in Szechwan, Hapeh, N. Chekiang and N. Fukien. In some cities there are Christian councils, pastors' associations and the like. In many areas there are functional groups for promoting common interests, whether in Christian education or medical work or lay training or rural service. But there is still a great loss not only of efficiency but of the power born of strong inter-denominational fellowship and unity. The Ad Interim Committee of the NCC has appointed a committee to study this whole question with a view to more vigorous common planning and action.

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North American Delegates

The Foreign Missions Conference North America on January 7th elected the following 24 delegates to the Hangchow Meeting in 1938:

Miss Mildred McAfee, President of Wellesley College; Mrs. Leslie E. Swain, of Brown University; Miss Sallie Lou Mackinnon, of Board of Missions, M.E. Church, So; Miss Wilmina Rowland, Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement and World's Student Christian Federation; Miss Sarah S. Lyon,* General Secretary, National Board, YWCA; Martin Harvey, President, Christian Youth Movement; Dr. S. M. Cavert,* General Sec., Federal Council of Churches; Dr. Douglas Horton, Chicago pastor; Bishop James C. Baker, M.E. Church; Prof. Arthur H. Compton, Univ. of Chicago; Dr. John A. Mackay,* President, Princeton Theological Seminary; Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, Dean, Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Ralph Hutchinson, President, Washington & Jefferson College; Dr. Roy Ross, Secretary, International Council of Religious Education; The Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement (ex. officio); Dr. Edward Grant, Secretary, Board of Education, Presby. Church in U.S.; Dr. J. W. Decker, Secretary, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; Dr. F. F. Goodsell,* Secretary, American Board; Dr. R. E. Diffendorfer,* Secretary, Bd. of Foreign Missions, M.E. Church; Dr. L. J. Shafer, Secretary, Bd. of Foreign Missions, Reformed Church in America; Dr. G. T. Scott, Bd. of Foreign Missions, Presby. Church in U.S.A.; Dr. J. H. Arnup,* Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions, United Church of Canada; Dr. Canon S. Gould, Secretary, Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada; Frank Enrig, Baptist layman, Toronto. Eleven representatives have yet to be chosen. Those starred* were at the Jerusalem Meeting in 1928.

OXFORD 1937

The Universal Christian Council for Life and Work grew out of the World Conference which was held in 1927 at Stockholm, a conference that was supplementary to the World Conference on Faith and Order held at Lausanne in that year. The office of the Universal Christian Council has been in Geneva (41, Avenue de Chompe), and the General Secretary, H. L. Henriod has been concurrently Secretary of the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches.

This year July 12-26 the conference is being arranged at Oxford on *Church, Community and State*. Preparatory work has been carried out with great thoroughness by the Research Department at Geneva under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. H. Oldham, the senior secretary of the International Missionary Council. The IMC has been all the more willing to encourage Dr. Oldham to undertake this work as the preparations for Oxford are felt to be an essential part of the preparations for the IMC Conference at Hangchow, 1938.

During the last three years, scholars and thinkers in different countries have been enlisted in the study of some nine topics under the general heading of Church, Community and State. Papers when written have been circulated, criticized by others and then rewritten in the light of comment received. It is intended to publish the results of this thought and study in nine volumes at the time of the Conference, in July. A number of preliminary papers have been shared with a few individuals and groups in China, so we have good evidence of the quality of some of them. Probably no conference of this kind has been so well prepared for, but Dr. Oldham regards 1937 as only the beginning of a twenty years' program of work in which the Christian faith in relation to contemporary thought may be freshly understood and freshly stated.

At the Conference in Oxford the main subjects for discussion will fall under the five headings given below.

I. *The Church and the Community.*

This will include the consideration of the religious significance of those spheres of life which are not "Church" and in particular the relation of the Church to the common life as shaped by national tradition, expressing itself in characteristic folk ways and determined by current standards and values.

II *The Church and the State.*

This will include consideration of the Christian view of the State, of the claims of the contemporary State, and of the Christian conception of freedom.

III. *Church, Community and State in Relation to the Social Order.*

IV. *Church, Community and State in Relation to Education.*

The relations of Church, Community and State are in many instances particularly acute and pressing in the sphere of education and this aspect of the general problem therefore calls for special and separate consideration.

V. *The Universal Church ("Una Sancta") and a World of Nations.*

This will include the consideration of questions relating to nationalism, international relations, and the Church as a supra-national, oecumenical society.

Christianity and War.

It is left for later decision whether there should be one section of the conference which will consider the fifth subject as a whole and present a report dealing with both parts, or whether the difficulty of covering the whole of the ground in the time available makes it more desirable that the section should meet in two separate groups, one of which would deal with the first part of the subject and the other with the second, and each of which would present a separate report.

Monday, March 15, 1937

It is proposed that for the consideration of these subjects the conference should divide itself into five sections which will meet simultaneously in the evenings as may be required and present reports to the conference.

Delegates from China to this Oxford Conference will not be many in number. The churches have been asked to appoint representatives, but so far we have only heard that Dr. T. T. Lew, Rev. Gordon Poteat, Rev. Frank Price and Mr. T. H. Sun have been appointed by their churches. It is hoped to secure one or two more Chinese Christian leaders who will be present both at Oxford and at Edinburgh during the following month.

EDINBURGH 1937

The World Conference on Faith and Order to be held at Edinburgh August 3-18 this year will deal with the question of the Unity of the Churches.

It was in October 1910 after the Edinburgh Missionary Conference that the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America appointed a commission to bring about a conference for consideration of questions pertaining to the Faith and Order of the Church of Christ. This was eventually secured when the first world conference on Faith and Order met at Lausanne, Switzerland, in August 1927. Over 400 delegates were present, representing more than a hundred churches. A continuation committee was appointed which has held regular meetings since then, the Chairman being Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of York, and the Secretary Canon Hodgson. The first conference was concerned with stating the positions of the various churches. Since then it has been seen to be necessary to dig down to the underlying ground of unity. A book called "Convictions" was published in 1934, which gives the position that each church stands for, and four commissions have been at work on subjects which will form the basis for discussion at the second conference. On that occasion the effort will be made to enable representatives of the churches to go on from convictions about their own position to a deeper understanding of that of others. The splendid aim of those promoting the conference is to achieve an affirmation of our underlying unity in face of the challenge of the world situation, of the real fellowship that springs from our common loyalty to Christ combined with an effort to study the issues on which we are still divided in order that we may overcome them.

The following are the four main topics that will form the sectional study work of the conference:

- i. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. The Church of Christ and the Word of God.
- iii. The Church of Christ: Ministry and Sacraments.
- iv. The Church's Unity in Life and Worship.

Already by September last year 283 delegates had been appointed by 87 churches from all over the world. They will meet in the great Assembly Hall in Edinburgh,

which has been offered for their use by the Church of Scotland. The authorities of New College have offered accommodation in the student hostels so that members of the Conference may live together. One special section of the conference will consist of a youth group. We are not yet sure what delegates will be present from China, though we learn that the Church of Christ has appointed Rev. E. W. Burt, Rev. William Short and Mr. T. H. Sun, while the North China Kung Li Hui has appointed Dr. T. T. Lew, who was present at the Lausanne Conference, 1927.

NCC BIENNIAL MEETING

The date fixed for the Biennial Meeting of the Council is May 5-11, 1937. Delegates will assemble at the New Asia Hotel, Shanghai, on the evening of Wednesday May 5, living together in the hotel till the following Tuesday.

The theme of the meeting is to be "The Church in a Changing Age: A Call for a Forward Evangelistic Movement." It is intended to make this meeting a source of fresh inspiration and power for the Five Years Forward Evangelistic Movement, and at the same time link it to the preparation for the IMC Conference of 1938. It is proposed to consider four topics:

I. *The Life of the Church*, including evangelism, religious education, and the nurture of Church members, training for ministerial and lay service, and the training of missionaries.

II. *The Program of the Church*, including a consideration of the function of the Church, medical service, work in colleges and schools, among youth, in the home and in rural areas, and Christian literature.

III. *Closer Cooperation in the Church*, including the development of regional organizations, national co-operation, the service of the NCC to its members and to others not in its membership, and finance.

IV. *The wider relations of the Church*, including relations with Government (registration, taxation, holding of property), the national crisis and civic duty, the new life movement, non-Christian religions, and the ecumenical movement as represented by world organizations.

CHRISTIANIZING THE HOME

I. General Observance of Home Week.

Szechwan. Miss F. F. Jack, who is one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Home Committee reported that the Home Week was observed everywhere throughout the ten districts of the Szechwan Synod of the Church of Christ in China. They followed pretty closely the Home Week program prepared by the NCC Home Committee. Chengtu had the best Home Week celebration ever held. A full eight days' program was observed. A three hours' program was carried on every day throughout the week. One hour for exhibits, one hour for addresses and discussions and the third hour for pageants. Meetings were crowded with eager sight-seers each day. Admission was by ticket only; only stern door-keepers could keep good order.

Monday, March 15, 1937

Dr. R. O. Jolliffe reported that the Canadian Mission Press of Chengtu reprinted 17,000 of the song sheets, 37,000 of the proclamation blanks, 2,000 of the booklets on Home Week prayers, 500 of the program and 500 of each of the plays for Szechwan.

Swatow. Miss Alice K. Chen reported that the Lingtung churches of Swatow in October 1936 observed the Home Week each evening in 42 different chapels. The Home Committee of the Church and the women evangelists made plans for the chapels to have mothers' meetings at least once a year to consider the subjects of child psychology, child training, and training for good citizenship.

Changli. Miss Irma Highbaugh reported that the Methodist Episcopal Church in Changli district observed the Home Week both in the city and in the villages. As each church observed the Home Week in turn, it took more than two months for all the churches to observe the Week. The schools for boys and girls also observed the Home Week and exhibitions on the Home were given for the students. Miss Highbaugh said that the students were greatly interested in these exhibits.

Fenchow. Miss Louise Meebold reported that the American Board Mission in Fenchow, Shansi, and its seven districts, observed the Home Week last year. They also followed closely the program prepared by the Home Committee, such as lectures on the subject of how to be good parents, pageants on God-given parenthood, comparison of a good home and a bad home and well educated children. There were exhibits on children's clothes, books, reading materials and babies' contest, story telling, religious meetings; over a thousand attended the meetings in those districts.

II. Other Activities for the Home.

Hwaiyuan. Exhibits on the care of children: (a) Before and immediately after birth; (b) Baby's first year; (c) Care of older children, also recreation for children were given to the country Christian class, as reported by Mrs. R. J. McCandliss. An interesting demonstration on the making of "do-fu-chang" (bean curd milk), and others illustrating vitamins and food values, were also a part of the exhibit. The total attendance at these exhibits was about 700—the students of the Christian schools and girl students of the Government school.

Fukien. Anti-girl-slavery and little-daughter-in-law movement of the Methodist Mission in Fukien. Dr. Roxy Lefforge reported that the Foochow Conference of the Methodist Mission started this movement last year and in their conference of this year they appointed a general committee on the anti-girl-slavery and the little-daughter-in-law movement. The General Committee recommended each district to organize a similar local committee to promote this movement. A certain amount of money was set aside for the printing of materials on the subject and for the study and survey of this problem. Available materials will be introduced to the districts to be used. A survey will be made by each district on conditions of girl slavery and little daughters-in-law. Essay contests related to

this subject will be carried out in the Christian schools both for boys and girls.

Shantung. Club for study on home problems in Tsining, Shantung. The Church there emphasized the importance of having clubs for study of home problems as a sort of follow-up work of Home Week last year. The urgent need of the home at present which friends felt in that part of the country is hygiene in the home. They emphasize a great deal the method of study by the method of discussion. Topics for study of clubs for the fall are: the yard, the kitchen, and the living room. For spring: spitting, cooking, flies, cholera, summer foods, mosquitoes and malaria. Each month speakers were invited to talk on the general subjects which will be discussed afterwards. Miss Helen E. Christman says that she has seen improvements in the homes where she has visited.

Tientsin. Dr. Ortha M. Lane, reported that the interdenominational Christianizing the Home Conference was held in Tientsin on September 28 to October 7. The attendance was 62. There were pastors and pastors' wives, Bible women and lay leaders of seven churches of that city and the YMCA. People who attended this Conference greatly appreciated what the Conference did for them. They got a vision of the need for home work and became acquainted with the materials and methods effective in parent education. They voted to observe the Home Week this year and organize parent education classes in their churches. The program of the Conference was on the study of family worship, parent education in the home, home songs for children, home hygiene and home nursing, home economic problems. There were lectures on marriage problems in modern China, mutual relationships in the home, Christian observance of the Chinese festivals, home observance of the church festivals, methods of observing the Home Week in local churches, responsibility of Christian parents, home games and making of toys for children, etc.

N. China. The NCCRSU Interprovincial Council Home Committee met at the American Board Mission, Tunghsien, January 27-28. The following important actions were taken by the Committee:

a. It was decided to organize an interprovincial home committee;

b. Study was made of the needs in the field of literature for the home and allocation of preparation for it;

c. Suggestions about ways of furthering the year's program of the home work;

d. Six home problems were selected for study by the Committee from the list prepared by the Home Committee of the NCC.

North China Regional Training Institute on Parent Education. A committee was organized in January for the preparation of this institute. Dr. Lane is the Chairman of the Committee, Miss Ch'i is the Secretary. Two of the members are appointed by Hopei Lay Leadership Committee. They are Mr. Liu I-hsin and Mr. Rowland Cross, and the other six committee members

Monday, March 15, 1937

are representing the following provinces: Hopei, Honan, Shansi and Shantung. Mr. Liu I-hsin was appointed to be the Dean of the Institute, Mr. Cross and Miss Ch'i are Associate Deans. The Committee decided to hold this Institute June 25 to August 23 this summer in Tunghsien at Fu-yu Girls' School. This Institute is a cooperative enterprise of the NCC Home Committee and the churches of North China.

III. Materials obtainable from the Office of the NCC.

Study was made on the preparation of youth for marriage by the NCC Home Committee among about 3,000 students, both boys and girls, of 23 schools in Kiangsu, Chekiang and Fukien. A very simple report about the general conditions on the preparation of youth for marriage, and recommendations of the sub-committee of the Home Committee to the churches and schools, are obtainable from the NCC office by those who are interested. A preliminary copy of the suggested program for regional training institutes on parent education is also obtainable. The Home Committee is editing the Home Week materials for 1937 on the preparation of youth for marriage and hopes to get them published for orders by May.

IV. Request for Reports, Exhibits and Recommendations on the Home.

The Executive Committee of the Home Committee met on January 21 and voted to ask the churches to send their exhibits on the home for exhibition at the Biennial Meeting, May 5-11. Reports and recommendations on the home are also welcomed. The Committee desires to have the above mentioned reports, exhibits and recommendations not later than the middle of April so as to allow time to get them in shape for the Biennial Meeting.

V. A Five-Year Program on Parent Education and the New China.

The program of the Home Committee was approved by the Executive Committee of NCC at its Meeting, November 4-6, 1936.

The themes for the five years are:

- 1st year God-given, Parenthood
- 2nd „ Preparation of Youth for Marriage
- 3rd „ Development of Child Personality in the Christian Home:
 - a. In children 1-10 years
 - b. In children 10-15 years
- 4th „ Relationships in the Christian Home
- 5th „ The contribution of the Christian Home to New China.

“Bear ye one another's burdens”

We are now in the second year of this Five-Year Program and the outline of the program for the second year is as follows:

Preparation of Youth for Marriage—1937.

Topics for Study

A. Present Day Parents

- a. Training for a Christian Marriage
“What are Christian Standards for Establishing a Home?”—by Miss Irma Highbaugh (In press, CLS)

- b. Husband-Wife Relationships
- c. Marriage Customs, expenditures, etc.
- d. Birth Control (Natural Rhythmic Method—materials available in Chinese may be secured privately from WCTU, 206 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai.)
- e. Nutrition—the whole field of food values, diseases arising from malnutrition, etc. Mrs. A. C. Hausske's five posters for children under three years on child care and training, can be obtained from the CLS.

B. Youth

- a. Training for a Christian Marriage (Book needs to be prepared in Chinese for youth)
- b. Nutrition—as above on a youth level
- c. Knowledge of Law for Women—YWCA text in Chinese, 20 cents
- d. Divorce in China—YWCA text in Chinese, 60 cents
- e. Symposium on Marriage to be written by Christians on their experience of married family life (NCC Group II on Youth to be responsible)

NOTE: a. b. and e. of above should be prepared also for Mass Education grade. a. is under preparation by the Changli Group.

VI. Regional Institutes or Schools for Leadership Training on Parent Education.

It is hoped to set up such institutes of two or three months each in North, West, Central, East China, Canton and Fukien.

The Home Committee may use any available leaders in setting up such regional institutes and in the matter of staff there shall be at least three members who will teach for the entire time, and a rotating staff of two or three specialists, each of whom will teach for a period of one month. Regarding the qualifications of the students, they should be:

- a. Graduates of Senior Middle School or the equivalent
- b. Those already engaged in home work or training for such work
- c. Both men and women

The enrollment of the institute should be from 15-40 and the students should remain throughout the course of the institute. The purpose of the institute is to prepare the students

- a. To promote home work through the evangelistic program of the local churches
- b. To teach in lay leadership training institutes
- c. To lead and train leaders for parents' clubs and classes.

One such regional institute, which it was recommended to set up in different parts of China, will be held this summer (from June 25 to August 23) in Tunghsien, Hopei, North China. The other regional institutes are in the process of preparation.

Monday, March 15, 1937

OPIUM

A resolution on this important question was passed by the Ad Interim Committee of the NCC at its meeting on December 15, which reads as follows:

"The NCC of China has noted with grave concern the report given at the meeting of the League of National Opium Advisory Committee last June on the opium and narcotic drug situation in China.

"As representing a large section of the Christian movement in China, the NCC desires to assure the Government of its whole-hearted support in carrying out the six year opium suppression plan and of its readiness to cooperate with the national and provincial authorities in every way possible with a view to making the prohibition measures more rapidly effective.

"The NCC is keenly interested in all endeavours being made by the Government for the spiritual, social and economic uplift of the people and for this reason respectfully urges that even more earnest attention be given to the suppression of the import, cultivation and illicit use of opium and other narcotic drugs which are still sapping the vital forces of many of the people."

In regard to the relationship of the NCC to the National Anti-Opium Association, it was decided to ask the General Secretary to call a meeting of Christian bodies which have been constituent members of the NAOA to determine what relation they should bear to that Association.

RURAL WORK

The fortnightly paper "The Christian Farmer" (Tien Chia) has now reached a circulation of 17,000. It is under the editorship of Mr. Chang Hsueh-yen at Cheeloo University, Tsinan.

Mr. T. H. Sun, the first editor of "The Christian Farmer," who spent 1935-6 in America, has recently been visiting England. He spoke at the big quadrennial meeting of the Student Christian Movement in Birmingham and one enthusiastic listener is reported as saying: "He was easily the most attractive speaker we had." He is expected back in China in the early summer. The NCC has invited Mr. Sun to rejoin its staff, this time as secretary for rural work, but he has not yet accepted.

New Extension Service to Rural Churches

Dr. Ralph A. Felton, Professor of the Rural Church at Drew Theological Seminary, is visiting professor at Nanking Theological Seminary this year. Dr. Felton has had long experience in extension work in the United States, at Cornell University, in two home mission boards and now at Drew Seminary. Nanking Seminary is taking advantage of Dr. Felton's presence and counsel this year to start its own extension service to rural churches. Fifty "experimental-cooperating churches" have been selected in east China after consultation with various denominational leaders and these churches are being visited by Dr. Felton and Mr. Chow Ming-i of the Extension staff.

In January a two-weeks institute was held for the pastors of these churches at Nanking Seminary, the first week in the country and the second week in the city. At this conference a five year program for rural churches was discussed including evangelism, religious education, lay-training, new methods of self-support and various forms of community service. Forty-four of the co-operating churches were represented. The University of Nanking College of Agriculture is co-operating with Nanking Seminary in the extension service.

Recently Nanking Seminary invited theological seminaries and Christian colleges interested in rural work from all parts of China to send representatives to a conference on rural extension. Fourteen institutions and organizations responded. Four days were spent in exchange of experiences and ideas, and in discussing plans for a co-ordinated program of extension service. The Conference recommended that there be six regions for extension work with certain theological schools and colleges assuming responsibility in each region in co-operation with the churches. It is hoped that the plan of a selected group of experimental-cooperating churches may be adopted in all the areas. Through this extension service as it develops the resources of the seminaries and colleges are to be made available for research and experimentation in the problems of rural churches and in helping the rural churches to serve their communities. The whole program is full of fascinating possibilities.

A Continuation Committee was elected representing the six regions and the National Christian Council, with the following members: Mr. James Hunter, Rev. Homer Brown, Mr. Paul T. T. Seng, Rev. Frank W. Price, Dr. Francis Chen, Rev. Y. S. Tom, Dr. W. Y. Chen.

Survey of Rural Churches in China

For some time the Rural Church Dept. of Nanking Theological Seminary has been making plans for an intensive study of one hundred rural churches in China. When Mr. Merle Davis, Secretary of the Research Division of the International Missionary Council, visited China last autumn, he asked Nanking Seminary to undertake a somewhat more comprehensive study to be published before the World Conference at Hangchow in 1938. The help of many Chinese workers and missionaries in all the provinces and in all the larger church groups has been solicited. Survey schedules have already been sent to over eighty persons who have promised to help. Members of the faculty and students of Nanking Seminary are studying other churches. A map of all rural churches and chapels in the three eastern provinces of Chekiang, Kiangsu and Anhwei is also being prepared as part of the study. This is being compared with the 1922 study in *The Christian Occupation of China* to see what advance has been made by the rural church in the past fifteen years. Any one interested in these studies may write to Prof. F. W. Price, Nanking Theological Seminary, for further information.

Monday, March 15, 1937

For Supervisors of Rural Work 1937 Institute

The North China Christian Rural Service Union is planning to hold another Institute for the Supervisors of Rural Work similar to that held in Tunghsien in 1935 in connection with the visit of Dr. L. A. Weigle.

The time and place for this Institute have been set for April 1 to 13, 1937, at Changte (Anyang), Honan. The Honan Synod of the Church of Christ have been asked to take charge of all local arrangements. Mr. Chang Po Huai and D. K. Faris together with Mrs. A. B. Frame, Miss Ch'i Yu Chen and J. A. Hunter have been asked to act as the Steering Committee of the Institute and arrange for the program. Other leaders have been invited for the Morning Program and to direct the different sectional discussions.

The general arrangement of the program will be very much like that of the last Institute, the main features of which are as follows:

(a) Morning watch and Bible study. This is to include a period of personal devotion followed by a group discussion each day before breakfast.

(b) Morning Study Program. This is the period between 9 and 12 a.m. when the Committee, together with Dr. and Mrs. Felton and other leaders, will meet with all of the delegates. During this time there will be addresses, discussion, supervised reading, reports, etc., on the general theme, "Planning a Program for the Rural Church."

(c) There will be no formal meetings in the afternoon before 3:30, when there will be a "rural tea" followed by a solid working period from four to six. This is to be used for specialized study, the delegates dividing into seven sections. Each section will have in mind the special part of the program for the rural church which they have taken for study and the ways in which their plans will fit into the whole program of the church in its task of building up a permanent Christian society. The seven special groups will be under the following headings: Public Health, Adults, Youth, Children, Mass Education, Livelihood and Lay Leadership.

As the number of the delegates to the Institute has been limited to seventy persons, each mission or organization interested has been allotted a certain number of delegates to represent them.

DR. STANLEY JONES IN CHINA

Dr. Stanley Jones expects to be in China for six months from August 15th this year. He comes at the warm invitation of the NCC. Dr. Jones has himself suggested travelling as a member of a team and this has been strongly recommended by the Executive Committee. He will be asked to give attention primarily to the strengthening of the leadership of the church, e.g. for evangelism, lay service and the Christianising of the Home, with such work for non-Christians and students as may be carried on without diversion from this main objective.

Dr. T. C. Bau, Secretary of the NCC Commission on the Life and Work of the Churches, is in charge of the program. The following itinerary is given for information on the understanding that it is not final and is subject to some revision.

Proposed Itinerary

Month	Date	Name of Place	
Aug.	23-25	Tsingtao	Orientation Meeting with the Team
	25-Sep. 5	Tsingtao	Christian Writers Conference. Retreat for Christian Leaders
			Evangelistic Meeting for Tsingtao Churches
Sep.	6-11	Tsinan	University and Churches
	12-17	Tientsin	
	19-24	Peiping	
	25-27		Travel
	28-Oct. 3	Taiyuan	
Oct.	4-6		Travel
	7-12	Sian	
	15-20	Kaifeng	
	23-28	Wuhan	
	30-Nov 4	Changsha	
Nov.	5-7		Rest
	8		Travel
	9-14	Nanchang	
	16-21	Wuhu	
	23-28	Nanking	
	30-Dec 5	Chinkiang	
Dec.	7-12	Soochow	
	14-29	Hangchow	Rest in Hangchow
	20-22		Rest and Business in Shanghai
	23-25		(23-31 Broadcasting)
Jan.	26-31	Shanghai	
	1-4		Travel
	5-10	Foochow	
	12-17	Amoy	
	19-21	Swatow	
	23-24	Hongkong	
	25-30	Canton	
	31		Leave Canton

NATIONAL LAY TRAINING MOVEMENT

This movement has been working through two channels: regional committees and the national headquarters in Shanghai. One of the most active regional committees is that in Hopei. It has promoted a city lay training institute in Peiping, conducted a second-series lay training institute in Tunghsien, and held a deans' conference to discuss ways and means of improving institute management. In its first annual meeting held at the end of January, it decided to have a teachers' institute next Summer and another inter-denominational lay training institute in southern Hopei sometime during the fall.

Other regional committees such as West Shantung, East Shantung and Hunan, have also been busy in making plans for institutes or in experimenting with textbook materials.

The NCCRE is now ready to issue certificates as a means of encouragement to those laymen or women who have finished their work satisfactorily in training institutes. This arrangement is of course optional to those institutes that want national certificates. The requirements and courses of study are described in the NCCRE Lay Training Bulletin No. 4. This together with "The Case for Lay Training" (A Simple Catechism on Voluntary Service) may be secured at the NCCRE office. The latter is available both in Chinese and English. It is intended to answer in plain language some of the most common questions concerning lay training as we have discovered them in the course of the work. It is in pocket size and very handy for distribution. The price is one cent per copy.

Monday, March 15, 1937

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MAGAZINE

A new venture of the NCCRE is the publication of an interdenominational quarterly for promoting educational methods in religion. It grows out of the bulletins of the Religious Education Fellowship which have been published since 1931. The main body of the new magazine is to be in Chinese, but there will be a brief English section.

The first number will be ready for circulation some time at the end of March. It contains an article by Paul Veith on What is a Sunday School? Then follow a number of sections dealing with work with children, young people, lay training, denominational news, REF news and recent books.

Members of the REF will get a copy of the magazine free. The subscription rate for others is forty cents per year or one dollar for three subscriptions to one address. Send your subscriptions to the NCCRE office, 169 Yuen Ming Yuen Road.

Three Kinds of Sunday School Materials for Children (NCCRE Publications)

Experience has convinced us that the conditions of Sunday Schools vary so much all over the country that we need at least three kinds of materials for children. We are glad to announce now that after a long period of preparation, we have made available the following three kinds of Sunday School Materials.

I. Neighborhood Sunday School Lessons.

These Lessons were prepared by Rev. Frank W. Price and his associates in the Nanking Theological Seminary. They are intended for street children or those who for the first time attend any kind of a Christian Sunday School. The teaching materials consist of a set of thirty-one colored pictures, illustrating life situations of Chinese children, and a set of twenty song sheets, and a set of twenty sheets, containing golden texts to be memorized. There is also a Teacher's Manual, which gives detailed instructions on the methods of using these Lessons. The price of the Lessons is as follows:

Teacher's Manual	\$.40
71 large charts	3.75

(Order from CLS) \$4.15

II. Group-Graded Sunday School Lessons.

These Lessons are being prepared by Mr. Chen Kuang Chiao, and published by the N. Fukien Religious Tract Society, Nantai, Foochow. They are being issued in three series two years in each series:

Series I. Children and the Heavenly Father (6-7 years).

Series II. Working Together with Our Heavenly Father (8-10 years).

Series III. Lives of Ancient and Modern Heroes (11-13).

The lessons are built on the life experiences of children, and are especially prepared for rural and smaller town or city churches, who need *simple, cheap, but educationally sound* Sunday School material. They are in simple Mandarin, and follow the vocabulary of the school child of the same age, except for the introduction of special Biblical terms and names. The material for the April-June quarter may be ordered now from the R.T.S. Foochow at the following prices:

Series I

Teacher's Quarterly—8 cents a quarter—32 cents a year.

Pupil's leaflet—1¼ cents a quarter—5 cents a year.

Series II

Teacher's Quarterly—8 cents a quarter—32 cents a year.

Pupil's leaflet—2½ cents a quarter—10 cents a year.

Series III

Teacher's Quarterly—10 cents a quarter—40 cents a year.

Pupil's leaflet—2½ cents a quarter—10 cents a year.

III. Closely Graded Sunday School Lessons.

This series of Lessons is specially prepared for those Schools that are closely graded and that have trained teachers. All of these courses take account of the Church seasons of Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc. In the hands of competent teachers the detailed instructions in the Teacher's Manuals will not be regarded as a burden, but rather as full of fresh suggestion and inspiration. The following are the titles and prices of this series, and may be ordered from the CLS.

First Grade

Our Heavenly Father's World, 1933....	.30
Teacher's Pictures, postage extra	.88

Second Grade

Helping the Heavenly Father, 1933	.20
Teacher's Pictures, postage extra	.56

Third Grade

Good Children of the Heavenly Father, 1936 (Largely New Testament)	.25
Teacher's Pictures, postage extra	.40

Fourth Grade

Fulfilling the Will of God—(Old Testament course) Ready in MS. form, 1937. In Press

Fifth Grade

Heroes of Yesterday and To-day, 1934.	
Teacher's book	.15
Pupil's book, pictures included. (Autumn) (Life of Christ and St. Paul, 26 lessons)	.20
Pupil's book, pictures included. (Spring) (Easter lessons, spread of Christianity through Europe, Morrison coming to China, etc., 26 lessons)	.20

Sixth Grade

Workers Together with God, 1937

In Press

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

The third conference on Christian Literature was held in Shanghai, November 9-12, 1936. Previous conferences had been in Nov. 1935 and May 1936. This series represents a new attempt to bring together the agencies that are producing and distributing Christian literature for regular mutual consultation, and the effort has been conspicuously successful in several ways. For one thing, those responsible for the work of most of the literature societies now know each other much better and have developed a professional comradeship that is stronger than denominational or party barriers. Again, some strong Chinese personalities have taken a considerable share in these conferences and their contribution has been greatly welcomed by the foreign workers who find themselves still largely responsible for the organized literature agencies.

Further it has been possible to secure the active cooperation of a number of scholars and experts who were asked to serve as consultants. The field of literature has been divided into some sixteen sections and there are four consultants on the average in each section. Their help is asked in drawing up lists of books already available in each field (for most people do not know what there is), in giving a fair idea of the value of these books and in discovering where the gaps are, the needs that are most urgent. Not all consultants are yet mobilised, but reports were submitted in fourteen fields of literature and were most helpful. Of the 65 consultants on the list, 34 are Chinese.

The China Bookman for January 1937 contains a full account of the latest conference, together with a list of consultants. The February issue of the same magazine contains report on Theological literature by Rev. Peter P'eng and on Church History by Bishop J. W. Nichols. The China Bookman should be carefully read for these reports as well as for the lists of new books issued. It should also be filed for reference. The fact that it is a monthly journal is itself a product of these conferences on Christian Literature.

Distribution, the program of production and the development of writers—these three subjects have formed the agenda. The next conference to be held in April or May will continue to grapple with the tough problems under each heading. Rev. M. E. Terry, the editor of the China Bookman, to whom these conferences have owed so much, has recently undergone a successful operation but expects to be back in his office before that time.

One interesting suggestion was made at the last conference, that a national Christian book week should be promoted each year with an enterprising program of exhibits, talks plays and posters all designed to extend the use and power of Christian literature. The NCC was asked to take this matter up.

Timothy Richard Prize.

The Committee appointed to judge the essays sent in for the Timothy Richard Prize have submitted their report for 1936. The subject set for last year was

Christian Patriotism, to be written in the form of a play or story or essay.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

The first prize, no award this year.

The second prize essay No. 49 written by Miss Hsia Teh-tsen of Yenching University to be awarded \$150.00.

The third prize essay No. 99 written by Mr. Hsung Chen-chi of the Szechuen Road YMCA to be awarded \$100.00.

The fourth prizes, essay No. 96 written by Mr. Chen Hsin-kwei of Yenching University; essay No. 92 written by Mr. Chang Hsian-tien of Chinhwa University, Peiping; essay No. 97 written by Mr. Chen Yun of Fukien; essay No. 69 written by Rev. Lin Nat-pei of Fukien; essay No. 122 written by Rev. Hu Lan-tin of Fukien, each to be awarded \$50.00.

For this year 1937 there are 3 topics:

- (1) The future of Christianity in China (essay)
- (2) The power and influence of personality (essay)
- (3) A story for non-Christians to illustrate the principles of sacrifice, peace and love in Christianity.

The first prize is \$200, the second is \$150 and the third is \$100; for other deserving essays \$150 to be divided.

YOUTH

World's Conference of YMCA in India

At this Conference which was held in Mysore, India, January 2-10, 1937, there were 250 delegates present representing 40 nations, of whom 6 were from China. A good number of delegates were under thirty years of age and a special session was held which only those under thirty were eligible to attend. Two of the Chinese delegation were eligible. Mr. S. C. Leung, who led the delegation from China, served on the Conference Committee and also as Chairman of the Commission on Building of a New Social Order. The report was first prepared in China and later discussed at the Conference. Another delegate, Mr. Peter S. T. Shih, General Secretary of the Nanking YMCA, gave a month after the Conference for deputation work visiting the Indian Movement. He reports that those he met were particularly cordial to China and the Chinese people.

College Conference, Soochow

The first national conference of officers of College Student Christian Associations was held in Soochow University Jan. 26-Feb. 1 under the auspices of the Student Department of the National YWCA and the Student Division of the National Committee YMCA. This was a training conference. There were present 45 students from 11 Christian universities, 4 theological seminaries, and 4 Government and non-Christian private institutions. Among these 15 were girls. Besides there were 2 outside leaders and 10 secretaries, local and national. The unique feature of the conference was the prominent place given to program planning under the following headings:

Monday, March 15, 1937

The College Associations's Emergency Program
The College Association's Religious Program
The Study Emphasis of a College Association
Administration of a College Association
Summer Conference Planning
World's Student Christian Federation

The conference was a success. First, the whole country was fairly well represented. Secondly, the students were awakened to the need of deepening their local program. Thirdly, the zeal and earnestness of the representatives of Government and non-Christian private institutions presented a great challenge to Christian forces to do more aggressive Government student work. And last, the warm hospitality of Soochow University was in no small degree a factor in the success of the conference.

Student Summer Conferences

It is hoped that student summer conferences will be held in the following regions between June and August this year as usual: East China, South China, Hopei, Shantung, Shansi, Central China, North Fukien, Kwangtung, Yunnan, West China and Honan. Except the first two, all the others are open to college and middle school students, men and women. East China and South China are the only two conferences for college students. East China College Conference has had a history of at least eight years while South China College Conference was only started last year. At the recent College Association Officers' Conference, the following topics were suggested as possible themes of this year's conferences. "Personal Change and Social Reconstruction," "God's Will and Reconstruction," "Reality and Reconstruction." The first suggestion is now chosen as our national theme. The two Student Divisions of the National Committees are co-operating in the promotion and preparation of materials for the different regional conferences. The Student Division of the National Committee YMCA is also planning for a special training Conference for Senior Middle School students in East China and a national summer institute on student work in Kuling.

Student Christian Movement

The SCM Provisional Council is calling for a National Student Convention in Shanghai, August 18-25, 1937. Out of this National Convention, it is hoped that a federated SCM could be formed in China incorporating the various student sections of the existing movements. For the preparation of this Convention, a Provisional Secretarial Board has been set up consisting of the following personnel: Miss P. C. Shih of the Student Department of the National YWCA, Mr. C. S. Tsai of the Student Division of the National YMCA and Mr. Y.H. Geng of the Church of Christ in China.

YMCA General Secretaries

A National Conference of the YMCA General Secretaries of Provincial Capitals will be held this summer in Central China, probably in May at Nanchang.

Boys' Work

Projects which the Boys' Department, YMCA, will carry through these next few months:

1. *North China Boys' Workers' Institute at Peiping, April 25-30.*

Secretaries, volunteer leaders and boys' workers from YMCA's and other agencies in the following ten cities will attend: Sianfu, Kaifeng, Tsinanfu, Tsingtao, Chefoo, Tientsin, Tatung, Taiyuanfu, Paotingfu and Peiping. The program consists of Adolescent Psychology, Program Making, Club Supervision and Interchange of Experiences and Fellowship. The general theme of the Institute is "Boys Work—a Job or a Profession?"; outstanding leader: Mr. M. D. Crackel, who has had more than 25 years of rich experience and successful work with boys in Cleveland (U.S.A.) and Jerusalem (Palestine).

2. *Boys' Camps in China.*

Camps will be held again this summer by the following YMCA's: Peiping, Tientsin, Chefoo, Tsingtao, Tsinan, Taiyuanfu, Chengtu, Chungking, Hankow, Changsha, Wuhu, Shanghai, Hangchow, Hongkong and Canton.

3. *Pacific Area Older Boys' Camp-Conference.*

The fifth Pacific Area Older Boys' Camp-Conference will be held this year in Japan, at Lake Yamanaka, near the foot of Mt. Fuji. About 20 boys between the ages of 16 and 19, who are in the first or second years of the Senior Middle Schools, are eligible.

4. *Chung Ching Tuan Program for Boys in the Junior Middle Schools.*

The Chung Ching Tuan program is a four-fold program for boys between 12 and 16 who attend the Junior Middle Schools. This is an attempt to grade the work of these students according to their interest and also to make it possible for them to enter into the Student YMCA's when they come out of the Junior Schools.

The National Boys Work Secretary of the National Committee YMCA's of China, Mr. Harry Cheng, would be glad to answer any questions or suggestions regarding the above-mentioned activities.

Youth and Religion Movement Retreats

One of the five emphases of the Youth and Religion Movement is the strengthening of lay and secretarial leadership in the YMCA and other inter-church movements by deepening their spiritual life and broadening their social vision. But, during the last three years efforts have been concentrated on Youth and Religion campaigns, such as Dr. G. S. Eddy's evangelistic team of 1934, the National Youth and Religion Deputation of 1935 and the East China Youth and Religion Deputation of 1936. So far there has not been any program specially for youth leaders, although the program mentioned above did help unconsciously to strengthen leadership.

Monday, March 15, 1937

Six regional retreats are being held for Christian youth workers this spring in six large centers, namely, the Kwangtung Region (Feb. 14-16) at Hongkong, Shantung Region (Feb. 26-28) at Tsinan, North China (March 5-7) at Peiping, Lunghai Region (March 19-21) at Kaifeng, Central China (April 23-25) at Wuhan and East China (April 30-May 2) at Hangchow. The objectives which we hope to accomplish in these retreats are as follows:

1. Help to bring to clear focus and expression the central teaching and call of our Lord for our day for personal as well as social living;
2. Through this fellowship in thought and prayer, secure a more adequate religious work program for the Association and other inter-church groups;
3. Stimulate greater interest in personal witnessing in order to do personal guidance and personal evangelism;
4. Discuss future plans of the Y. & R. M.

The YMCA is fortunate in having Dr. A. J. Elliott, retired student secretary for the Central States of the National Council YMCA of U.S.A., and Dr. T. C. Chao, Dean of the School of Religion, Yenching University, as the two national leaders for these retreats. Each of them is to visit three centers with one executive secretary. Each region will invite several regional leaders, and the regional executive secretaries will be mainly responsible for the local and regional arrangements. The experience of each retreat will be briefly reported immediately after the conclusion of the retreat. Those interested may apply to Mr. C. C. Liang, National Committee YMCA, Shanghai.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Meeting of Principals of Christian Middle Schools

The first nation-wide meeting of principals of Christian middle schools will be held in Shanghai, April 8th to 10th. Groups of principals are planning to come from various parts of the country, traveling together and stopping at a number of points en route for inspection of schools, meetings with leading educators and sight-seeing. The meeting in Shanghai will be primarily for interchange of experience on the main topics of finance, government relations and Christian character. Such a trip and conference should be of great value, and churches and missions should encourage all principals to attend.

Literature Promotion Secretary

The Council of Higher Education in studying the religious life in the Christian colleges came to the conclusion that a much larger use could be profitably made of Christian literature in Chinese. They therefore authorized the securing of a special secretary to visit college and middle school campuses and interest faculty and students in the purchase and reading of Christian books. The China Christian Educational Association and the Christian Literature Society have cooperated in working out this project. A grant has been made by the Presbyterian China Council and

Rev. T. C. Wu, formerly pastor of the North Shanghai Baptist Church and later secretary of the Mission to Lepers, has been secured to give his whole time to this work. The program will include publications in Chinese adapted to the use of university and school people issued by the various publishing agencies. The schools are prepared to cooperate vigorously. It is hoped to enlist active cooperation of local book stores. Mr. Wu will also serve as field secretary of the CLS.

Council of Higher Education

The Council of Higher Education held its annual meeting in Shanghai February 3rd to 5th, with thirty-eight persons present, excluding visitors. The thirteen colleges and universities were all represented and several of the separate professional schools. The chairman, Dr. H. C. E. Liu of the University of Shanghai, and the vice chairman, Dr. S. T. Liu of Cheeloo University, presided. Devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. W. Y. Chen.

The enrolment of the colleges was reported as 7,098, the number having doubled in the last ten years. New developments of the year past are the Medical College of Lingnan University, including the Canton Hospital and Hackett Medical School, the College of Rural Reconstruction of Fukien Christian University, financed by the provincial government, and postgraduate work at the University of Nanking in Agricultural Economics, Chemistry and History, to be undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Education. Approval was given of a proposal made to Ginling College to develop work in Home Economics. One of the main efforts of this Council has been the working out of a Correlated Program. The Executive Committee was instructed to revise this program which is on the basis of a five year agreement ending in 1938.

The Council last year authorized the establishment of an Institute for Research in Religion in China, and this year appointed charter members who will proceed to elect other members, organize the institute and promote its work during a preliminary period of approximately three years at the end of which time a congress will be convened. The object of the Institute is to correlate the activities of a large number of persons in universities and elsewhere who are working in the field of Chinese religions and the history and development of Christianity in China.

Considerable time was given to discussion of the religious life in the Christian colleges. Five papers were presented dealing with the problem of secularization which are to be published later as a special bulletin. Request was made to the Associated Boards to secure special funds for fellowships to train teachers for departments of religion in the Christian universities, and to cooperate in providing the budget for these departments to ensure the use of such teachers on the completion of their training. A conference of religious education workers in Christian colleges was authorized for the summer of 1937.

An exhibit of Christian religious art had been worked out by Mrs. T. C. Greene and Dr. P. C. Hou of Cheeloo University, which had met with great success

Monday, March 15, 1937

at Cheeloo. This was exhibited to the Council and is to be made available for the use of other colleges.

The Council approved the registration of the China Christian Educational Association and authorized the necessary changes in the constitution, provided that the essential character of the Association be not changed.

MEDICAL WORK

Dr. Hume reports the following five items of interest:

1. *Christian Hospitals in South Fukien to Co-operate.*

The three missions around Amoy,—English Presbyterian, London Mission and Reformed Church,—have created (February 1937) a three-mission Medical Committee to be responsible for the total medical work of the group; base hospitals to be at Kulangsu, Changchow and Chuanchow, branch hospitals at Tungan, Changpu, Siaokhe, Yungchun and Hweian. The Synod of the Church of Christ has elected three members to the newly-constituted board of the Changchow Union Hospital. The Christian forces will think of healing and health as a single, common task.

2. *Christian Hospital Plans for Central and North Fukien.*

The Methodist plant at Sienyu, together with one foreign nurse, will be contributed to a union scheme, the C.M.S. doctor at Hinghwa, Dr. M. K. Yue, being in charge professionally.

The Methodist, Congregationalist and C.M.S. forces are welcoming a study of the whole area between Nanchang in Kiangsi and Foochow in Fukien, with a view to considering some sort of team action similar to that in South Fukien. The study will be made by Dr. Hume, Dr. M. K. Yue, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Shepherd and Dr. H. G. Anderson (of Chengtu), and the findings will be discussed at a conference with the church authorities in Foochow in April.

3. *Chekung-Shanghai Baptist Convention Medical Committee proposes forward medical policy.*

This report was unanimously adopted on February 16, 1937.

It calls for a fuller expression of the spirit and message of Christ, coupled with higher professional standards, co-operation with the government health program and more effective relationships with the Church, together with continuance of co-operation between hospitals of this Convention.

4. *Southern Presbyterian Mission votes to approve Registration of Schools of Nursing.*

During the first week of February this mission voted, 16 to 12, to approve registration. Those who objected did so because religious teaching could not be made compulsory and because of required observance of the Monday memorial service.

5. *Conference regarding use of country pastors in health work.*

The conference was held on February 4. There were present: Prof. R. A. Felton of Drew Seminary,

Dr. Homer Brown of Chengtu, Rev. Frank Price of Nanking Seminary, Dr. E. H. Hume, Council on Medical Missions.

The following suggestions were made:

(1) Country Pastors might be used to act as rural health workers; to aid in village sanitation; to promote health education in schools.

(2) There should be definite planning to get country pastors to relate such rural Christian health work to the program of the Wei Sheng Shu, to promote use of midwives in rural areas as an arm of the Christian ministry, to secure training for groups of such country pastors in some way to be approved by the Wei Sheng Shu.

Chinese Medical Association, Biennial Conference

Shanghai will be the scene of the national biennial Conference of the Chinese Medical Association from April 1st to 8th, 1937. On March 31st-April 1st there will be a gathering of Medical Missionaries from hospitals in many provinces. Arrangements for this section are in the hands of the Council on Medical Missions, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Maxwell, Joint secretaries. It is this Council which serves as the Medical Committee of the National Christian Council, sending a member to staff meetings and welcoming an official delegate from the N.C.C. to its own meetings. The Medical missionary group will be in session until the afternoon of April 1st, when it adjourns to attend the opening ceremonies of the new Shanghai Medical Centre, including the Chung Shan Memorial Hospital and the National Medical College. On the evening of April 1st there will be a reception to welcome the delegates to the Medical Conference. The headquarters of the Chinese Medical Association are at 41 Tsze Pang Road, Shanghai. The President is Dr. H. P. Chu and the General Secretary is Dr. S. Sze.

The Council on Medical Missions will include in its program a discussion of the following topics: Methods of Christian Witness in the hospital and among the staff, The Church and the Hospital, including follow-up work, Finance and Control of hospitals, and Standards of work and extension.

INDIA

We have received interesting reports of the Biennial Meeting of the National Christian Council of India which took place at the end of the year. Some outstanding visitors were present at this meeting, notably Dr. John R. Mott, Rev. W. J. Noble, and some who had been to the meeting of the World's Committee of the YMCA. The subjects discussed were the work of the ten Provincial Councils, the IMC Conference at Hangchow, the Crusade against Illiteracy, Christian Medical Work (in which the help of Dr. E. H. Hume of China is being sought), Marriage and Divorce, and, above all, the subject of Evangelism, on which the Council issued a statement and a call for big efforts to meet the immense opportunities of the present hour, especially in relation to the mass movements of out-cast people into the Church.

Monday, March 15, 1937

We notice that the Council in India is revising its constitution and bringing in some changes which will make it more like the Council in China. Up till this meeting the Council had been based upon representation from the Provincial Councils. Now direct representation is also given to churches and missions. This combination of national and regional representation sounds excellent, a suggestion for us. The Executive Committee of the Indian Council will be enlarged and meet twice a year, as ours does, and the full meeting of the Council will be every three years instead of every two years. The staff of the Council is being enlarged, medical and educational work closely integrated with the rest of the Council's work and the budget increased from about \$30,000 to more than \$60,000. We welcome this confirmation of our own experience that where the NCC has the confidence of its constituency and the growing number of responsibilities loaded upon it, increased staff must be taken on and an increased budget raised to meet that situation. We admire this venture of faith and will remember the NCC of India in our prayers.

JAPAN

The February Bulletin of the NCC of Japan has just reached us. It brings interesting news of a nation-wide united evangelistic campaign which has been planned for 1937. Dr. T. Kagawa has been secured as one of the campaigners and has approved of a schedule which will take him across the Empire from Kyushu to the Hokkaido. Arrangements have been made for him to hold meetings in over one hundred churches in Tokyo itself between February and November. It has also been decided to organize ten evangelistic teams and assign a definite territory to each of them. Evangelistic bands are to be organized in every church and hold evangelistic meetings for the masses.

The Kingdom of God Weekly is a product of the Kingdom of God Movement, and is being used as the official organ of this present evangelistic movement and as the mouthpiece of the united Christian forces.

A Committee of Preparation has been appointed to prepare the way for participation in the IMC Meeting at Hangchow, 1938. A special and influential committee has been appointed for this purpose. We have no information yet as to the lines of work being undertaken.

At the annual meeting of the NCC of Japan action was taken to ask the Executive Committee to cultivate closer relations with the NCC of China. Accordingly, the following statement and suggestion has been sent to us in Shanghai.

To the National Christian Council of China:

"Both the history and the topography of Japan and China testify to the fact that the relations of these two nations with each other ought to be more intimate than with the other powers. That these two peoples, who are culturally and racially the same, should in recent years unfortunately have come into

a complicated diplomatic crisis is deeply deplored by both peoples.

"We Christians, who desire the felicity of both peoples and earnestly yearn for orderly relations, are incessant in our prayers that this may be realized. We sincerely believe that our fellow Christians in China share this sentiment and are united with us in this prayer.

"We therefore earnestly desire that through mutual conference a suitable place and time may be chosen where we can kneel together in the presence of our Lord, deepen the fellowship with one another and seek for God's fullest guidance to the end that a spiritual rapprochement and unity may be brought about between our two peoples. Through this action we crave to somewhat show our sincerity.

"In fulfillment of the will of the National Christian Council of Japan as expressed in the action taken at this 14th Annual Meeting we present this to the National Christian Council of China. We would very greatly appreciate your reply."

The NCC of China has replied welcoming the suggestion contained above and inviting a group to come over from Japan for that purpose. This invitation has been accepted, and arrangements are being made for the visit of a group of Japanese Christian Leaders in April. The policy we shall follow is at all costs to keep open the lines of communication with our Christian brethren in Japan, and we earnestly trust that this proposal may be a very helpful means towards that end.

SECOND CONFERENCE ON CHURCH UNITY

A conference on Church Unity, called in January of 1935 by the Commission on Church Unity, of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui, appointed a Continuation Committee. This Committee issued a call to interested churches in China for a second Conference which met in the Missions Building, Shanghai, from January 22nd to 24th of this year. Representatives were present from the Church of Christ in China (Chung Hua Chi Tuh Chiao Hui), Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican), Mei I Mei Hui (Methodist Episcopal), Chien Li Hui (M.E., South), Chin Li Hui (Baptist, North), Hsun Tao Kung Hui (Methodist) and North China Kung Li Hui (Congregational). Rt. Rev. L. H. Roots, D.D. presided. A continuation committee was appointed to arrange for a meeting of a similar informal nature about the same time in 1938, for mutual consideration of problems and for Christian fellowship. Bishop Roots, and Revs. E. S. Yu and W. H. Hudspeth constitute this committee.

A second committee consisting of Bishop Roots and Revs. Cheng Ching-yi, T. C. Bau, E. S. Yu and W. H. Hudspeth, was appointed to invite the churches in China to appoint *official representatives* to meet together "to explore the possibilities of union and the necessary steps which must be taken to effect corporate union."

Monday, March 15, 1937

It was agreed that the Continuation Committee should meet about the time of the Biennial Meeting of the NCC in May.

The Commission on Life and Work of the Churches was asked to attempt "to arrange for frequent meetings in several parts of the country, where Pastors Associations, Missionary Associations, or other groups should consider together in intimate fellowship the problems involved in Christian unity."

A limited number of copies of the Minutes of the meeting are available from the secretary of the Continuation Committee, Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, at 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai.

The NCC Staff

With the generous approval of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions which will continue to bear his full salary and allowances the North China Kung Li Hui has released *Rev. Earle H. Ballou* from February of this year until his furlough period in 1939 to serve as a secretary of the National Christian Council. Mr. Ballou will be an Executive Secretary of the special Preparation Committee appointed by the NCC in connection with the 1938 Hangchow Meeting of the IMC. Mr. Ballou began his work in Shanghai on February 22nd. It is hoped that he will be able to work not only in Shanghai and Peiping, where his family continues for the present, but that he will be able to travel and to establish personal contact with several of the study groups working in preparation for the 1938 Meeting.

At the November meeting of the Executive Committee action was taken with a view to the extension of the allocation of *Rev. R. D. Rees* to the work of the NCC for a further period of three years from the termination of the present arrangement in June 1937. Favorable action was taken by the South China Synod of the Methodist Church and confirmation by the Methodist Missionary Society is now awaited.

The same meeting accepted *Rev. C. L. Boynton's* suggestion that his furlough should be postponed from 1936 to 1939 or later. In January, Mr. Boynton completed ten years' continuous service with the NCC, during which period he has been absent from China but six months.

Dr. T. C. Bau, who became the Honorary Executive Secretary of the Commission on the Life and Work of the Churches in January 1936, is continuing his work with that Commission, giving his time particularly to the development of local and regional cooperation, to training institutes for lay workers and ministers, and to the promotion of the Forward Evangelistic Movement in which *Dr. E. Stanley Jones* will share from August to January next.

Forthcoming Meetings

Mar. 8-11	NCCRE Executive Board, Nanking.
11	Middle School Group on Religious Education, Nanking.
24-31	Eastern Asia Central Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, Wesley Church, Nanking.

Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Council on Medical Missions, Chinese Medical Association, Shanghai.
Apr. 1-8	Chinese Medical Association Conference, Shanghai.
4-7	Chekiang-Shanghai Baptist Convention, Principals of Middle Schools, Shanghai.
8,10	General Synod, Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui, Foochow
17-26	North China Kung Li Hui, Fenchow, Sha.
17-23	Executive Committee (enlarged), Commission on Life & Work of the Churches, Shanghai.
May 2-5	Biennial Meeting, National Christian Council, New Asia Hotel, Shanghai.
5-11	Retreat of Principals of Christian Middle Schools in Chekiang, Zakow, Che.
16-18	General Synod, Lutheran Church of China, Loyang, Ho.
June 12-21	World Conference on Life and Work, Oxford, England
July 12-26	General Assembly, Church of Christ in China, Tsingtao, Sung.
15-30	World Conference on Faith and Order, Edinburgh, Scotland
Aug. 3-18	Student Christian Movement, National Student Convention, Shanghai.
18-25	China Association of Theological Seminaries, Shanghai
25-27	Christian Writers Conference & Pastors' Retreat, Tsingtao, Sung.
25-Sept. 5	International Missionary Conference, Hangchow, Che.
Oct. 1938	World Conference, Young Women's Christian Association, Hangchow.
" "	

LET US PRAY

For those preparing for the Conference of the International Missionary Council at Hangchow, October 1938.

The Officers of the IMC in New York and London

Christian leaders in Japan, India, etc.

Those responsible for preparatory work in China.

For the Biennial meeting of the National Christian Council, May 5-11, 1937;

That this meeting may bring further guidance and power to the Five Years Forward Evangelistic Movement, and a new vision of the Church and God's purpose for the Church in China.

For the Officers and Secretaries of the National Christian Council and for all engaged in promoting Cooperative Work to the glory of God and for the good of China.

(For subjects under this heading, use the pages of this Bulletin)

Almighty God our Father, accept our praise and thanksgiving for good harvests, restored unity and continued peace in China. Give wisdom to those who lead and govern us; pour upon Thy Church a new spirit of love and power in her witness to the nation; and draw us all nearer to Thee that we may be more close to one another as we enter Thy Kingdom of fellowship and draw in others to share our joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

